

is immediately after the booting, the step 120 gives access to the printer controller 35 and the memory 34 through the system bus 32, acquires the status information data including the "optional paper feeder in use" and the "mounted memory size", and then stores them in the status information memory 34a.

The step 130 confirms whether the status information is updated. When the step 130 confirms that the status information is updated, the step 140 gives access to the printer controller 35 through the system bus 32, and acquires the status information data including the "toner remaining", the "life of consumable supplies for the photo conductor, etc", the "total number of the printed sheets", the "type of paper mounted", and "whether printing execution to be possible" whenever the system is updated. And then it stores them in the status information memory 34a. In addition, at the step S130, if the status information is not updated, the status information acquisition on the printer's side finishes without performing the step S140. When the printer 30 is booted, all the information mentioned above is acquired as the updated status information.

Fig. 7 shows the processing flow of the status information output at the step S200. The output initiation instruction module 33a at the step 210 confirms whether the switch 36 is pushed. The step 210 confirms that the switch 36 is pushed, the output initiation instruction module 33a outputs the trigger through

the parallel communication I/O interface 37 at the step 220. Afterwards, the status information output module 33c outputs the status information data written in the status information memory 34a into the host computer 10 through the parallel communication I/O interface 37 at the step S230. The printer 30, after outputting the status information data, stays in a standby state, only waiting for the printing job of the printing data based on the status information data.

Fig. 8 shows the print processing flow at the step 300. The printing module 33d confirms whether the printing job is inputted from the host computer 10 through the parallel communication I/O interface 37 at the step S310. If the step 310 confirms that the printing job is inputted, the step 320 transmits the signal that printing can be performed to the printer 30 through the parallel communication I/O interface 37.

When an error does not occur by the processing on the host computer 10 described later, the printing data file is transmitted from the host computer 10. The printing module 33d receives the printing data file through the parallel communication I/O interface 37 at the step S330 and writes the printing data in the buffer memory 34b. Then the step S340 controls the printing controller 35 to drive printing composition for printing the status information.

On the other hand, Fig. 9 shows the main processing flow

in which the printer driver 21 performs the status information printing. In the figure, at the step S395 the output initiation instruction monitoring module 21a monitors the parallel communication I/O interface 19b and confirms whether the trigger is received from the output initiation instruction module 33 at the printer 30. When the step S395 confirms the trigger, at the step S400 the status information acquisition processing on the host side acquires the status information data outputted by the status information output module 33c at the printer 30.

The step S405 confirms by the error flag whether any error takes place at the status information acquisition processing on the host side at the step S405. If the step S405 confirms the error flag which shows "1", the step S406 shows the error message and finishes processing. If the step S405 doesn't confirm the error flag that shows "1", the printing data generation processing at the step 500 generates the printing data based on the dot image data. Afterwards, in the same way as the step S405, the step S505 confirms by the error flag whether any error, which indicates that the status from the printer 30 shows an unprintable one at the step S500, takes place. If the step S505 confirms the error flag which shows "1", the step S406 shows the error message and finishes processing. If the step S505 doesn't confirm the error flag which shows "1", the printing data output processing at the step 600 outputs the printing job and the